

Anglerfish

Anglerfish are species of bottom-dwelling fish within that fall within the family of *Lophiid* (Hoslip, 2001).

Anglerfish are sometimes also called monkfish by the commercial trade sector (Hoslip, 2001). Within the North Sea, two species of Anglerfish can be found (Hislop, 2001). These two species are often called the White anglerfish

(*Lophius piscatorius*) and Black or Black-bellied anglerfish (*Lophius budegassa*) (Hislop, 2001). Both occupy relatively the same areas, with White anglerfish being found more commonly in the more Northern parts of the seas (Hoslip, 2001). As ambush hunters, Anglerfish do not move around as active hunters and are therefore considered non-migratory by this study. There are no known invasive species of anglerfish in the North Sea.



History/ Population trends

The number of annual landings has fluctuated over the past decades, with the most landings recorded in 1996 (ICES, 2024). The amount of annually caught anglerfish has dropped relatively steadily over the past 6 to 7 years (ICES, 2024). In Denmark anglerfish are largely taken as bycatch in demersal fisheries in the North Sea and Skagerrak (Thangstad et al., 2006). However, these bycatches can form a relatively high proportion of the total value of the catch (Thangstad et al., 2006). The species is considered important for this reason, particularly to the fishers of the ports in West Jutland (Thangstad et al., 2006). Reported Danish landings of anglerfish from the North Sea varied between 1.404 tons and 2.254 tons over 1990 to 2002 (Thangstad et al., 2006). This makes Denmark the second most important exploiter of this stock after the UK (Thangstad et al., 2006). Denmark also takes the majority of catches of anglerfish reported from ICES Division IIIa (Skagerrak & Kattegat) (Thangstad et al., 2006). Danish landings from this area have varied between 312 tons and 658 tons over 1990 to 2002 (Thangstad et al., 2006). The most common fishing methods for anglerfish are trawling and gillnetting (Thangstad et al., 2006).

Miscellaneous

- The Anglerfish is one of the largest ambush hunters in the North Sea, as they reach a maximum length between 117cm and 167cm (Crozier, 1989).

Diet

- Crustaceans (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Squid (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Herring (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Sprat (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Sandeel (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Mackerel (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Small sharks (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Flatfish (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Whiting (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Small Fish (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Demersal active hunters (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Pelagic active hunters (Fariña et al., 2008)
- Other ambush hunters (Fariña et al., 2008)

Sources

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